

Winston Churchill told the British people, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

The liberals in this chamber have decided to put those two bold and spirited quotes together to come up with their new motto, "We have nothing to offer but fear itself."

Everyday we see a parade of liberals come down to the well, not to shed light and clarify, but to distort and sow fear.

They tell seniors we are slashing Medicare, when the truth is that we are increasing spending on Medicare by 33 percent per senior over the next 7 years.

They tell children we are going to take their lunches away, when the truth is we will spend more on them, 4.5 percent more each year.

They tell students we are going to cut student loans, when the truth is we are strengthening the student loan program.

All the liberals offer is fear. No ideas. No plans of their own. No leadership.

What would Franklin Roosevelt think.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern over Monday's Supreme Court decision on affirmative action. I believe this ruling sends the wrong message.

I believe there is no justification in diminishing the power of the Federal Government in building a diverse workplace and ensuring opportunity for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the American people should know that affirmative action does not promote unqualified people and firms into jobs and institutions. Instead, it has provided minorities and women equal access to education, jobs, and contracts.

Affirmative action is an important tool to address the persistent dilemma of racial and gender inequality and discrimination. Now more than ever before, we need affirmative action because the scars and stains of racism and bigotry are still deeply embedded in the American society. We cannot go back and we must not go back.

MEDICARE IS IN DANGER

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is in danger. President Clinton's own trustees say Medicare will be broke in 7 years. Seven years. That means that if your parents, or grandparents, are 58 years old, there will be no Medicare for them when they become eligible at age 65.

Mr. Speaker, our senior citizens depend on Medicare for their day-to-day

medical needs. Republicans are determined to ensure that they can continue to depend on it by strengthening and protecting the current Medicare system.

We will cut the waste and fraud from Medicare and increase the amount we spend on each recipient. We will create a series of new choices within the current system so seniors are not forced into a system they do not want.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is, seniors want a Medicare system that offers the best care at the lowest cost and gives them maximum control over their own health care. Republicans will give them that system.

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget plan makes drastic cuts in high-tech energy research at our National Laboratories. It cuts the fossil energy and energy conservation research and development by more than half. This is shortsighted and wasteful.

These cuts will come at a time when Labs such as those at Las Alamos and Sandia in my home State of New Mexico are making critical breakthroughs in the civilian applications of research in areas such as energy production and conservation, pollution control, and pharmaceutical design.

In addition to their important work in technologies which provide for our national security, these research developments will make American industry more efficient and safer for the environment, as well as more competitive in the global market.

Competitive American industry means more jobs for Americans, Mr. Speaker. Our National Labs are essential to this goal.

EVEN THE PRESIDENT SAYS THERE HAVE TO BE SOME CHANGES

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOKE. Good news, America. We are finally going to get to the point in the Medicare debate where we are going to actually talk about the facts.

As you know, back in March the Medicare trustees said the fund is projected to be exhausted in 2001, and yet we have heard repeatedly the big lie, that Republicans are slashing Medicare. In fact, finally the President has said just yesterday—well, it was on Sunday that he said, "No one seriously believes that the budget can be balanced unless we can reduce the rate of increase in Medicare costs," and then he went on to say, "As you know, I believe—well, let me say there are going to have to be some changes. We cannot

leave the system the way it is. There have to be some changes."

Thank goodness. Finally we are going to be able to talk rationally about this, come up with solutions, work together in a bipartisan way and stop throwing stones, as we have seen in the well here for the past several months on Medicare. It is not a political issue; it is a policy problem for the senior citizens of this country and for the next generation as well.

WHY I OPPOSE THE KASICH AMENDMENT

(Mr. DICKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in very strong support of the funding provided in the House Committee on Armed Services bill for long-lead funding for three additional B-2 bombers. I served on the Defense Subcommittee for 17 years and remember well when President Carter and Secretary Brown made the decision to go ahead with the stealth bomber.

I am convinced that in the Gulf War one of the reasons that we were able to win the war quickly and convincingly is the effective work of the F-117, the stealth attack aircraft. It was able to go into the most heavily defended areas and with 2,000 pound precision-guided munitions take out enemy surface-to-air missiles. That is an amazing capability.

The B-2 has 8 times the carrying capacity of the F-117. It can go 6 times as far. I am convinced that in the future it presents us with the potential of a conventional deterrent. If we load it up with smart conventional weapons, we can stop an enemy division from invading in the future into Kuwait.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope we will support the committee and oppose the Kasich amendment.

REPUBLICANS PLEDGED TO SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. DAVIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, here is a quote from the Medicare trustees report: "Under all sets of assumptions, the trust fund is predicted to become exhausted even before the major demographic shift begins."

In other words, the trustees have considered the impending bankruptcy of Medicare from many different angles and have concluded that, no matter what calculations are used, Medicare is going broke. Not only is Medicare going broke, it will go broke even before the baby boomers begin to retire. In fact, it will be bankrupt in about 7 years, if nothing is done.

Mr. Speaker, saving Medicare is not about calculus. It is not about numbers. It is about people who are 58